

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we award a Congressional Gold Medal to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in recognition of her courageous commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy in Burma.

Mr. Speaker, the images we have seen from Burma over the past year have been nothing short of horrifying. Soldiers firing automatic weapons into unarmed crowds and the charred body of a Buddhist monk, slain, lying face down in a pool of water stained with blood, are just two examples of the oppression that continues to plague Burma.

In the face of this horror, a hero has emerged. For close to 20 years, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has continued to fight for freedom and equality in Burma in the face of tremendous adversity. She has been arrested on numerous occasions, held under house arrest, and even had an attempt made on her life. In spite of this, Suu Kyi continues to speak out and to urge democracies throughout the world to come to Burma's aid. Her message is a simple one: "Use your liberty to promote ours."

Today, as we award the Congressional Gold Medal to Suu Kyi, we stand with her to demand democratic change in Burma.

I believe that while change will not come overnight to Burma, it will come. And when it does, it will be my great pleasure to join my colleagues in welcoming Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington so that we can thank her in person for her historic and courageous stand for liberty.

PAUL E. GILLMOR POST OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2007

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and former colleague, Congressman Paul Gillmor, by supporting the designation of the U.S. Postal Service Office located at 175 South Monroe Street in Tiffin, Ohio, as the "Paul E. Gillmor Post Office Building".

While we all miss our friend, this designation will serve to honor him for his distinguished career in public service in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate, and for living his life as a true gentleman.

The reference to being a "true gentleman" is something that will have a special meaning to members of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and it's something that I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a tribute to Paul Gillmor.

Paul and I were both members of the SAE's during our time at Ohio Wesleyan University, and our fraternity has a motto that describes

what it takes to be a true gentleman. I think this passage by John Walter Wayland describes Paul Gillmor and how he lived his life. It reads as follows:

"The True Gentleman is the man whose conduct proceeds from good will and an acute sense of propriety, and whose self-control is equal to all emergencies; who does not make the poor man conscious of his poverty, the obscure man of his obscurity, or any man of his inferiority or deformity; who is himself humbled if necessity compels him to humble another; who does not flatter wealth, cringe before power, or boast of his own possessions or achievements; who speaks with frankness but always with sincerity and sympathy; whose deed follows his word; who thinks of the rights and feelings of others, rather than his own; and who appears well in any company, a man with whom honor is sacred and virtue safe."

Mr. Speaker, I think that my colleagues would agree that Paul Gillmor lived the life of a true gentleman as a father, a husband, a friend and a public servant.

With that said, I appreciate today's effort to move this well-deserved legislation forward, and I urge everyone to honor and remember our friend and colleague, Paul Gillmor.

COMMENDING THE STATEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE AT THE U.N. CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN BALI

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, at a watershed moment in global diplomacy last week, our distinguished former Vice President, Al Gore, stepped in to fill an enormous U.S. vacuum in leadership. At the world summit on global warming in Bali, Indonesia, this new Nobel laureate once again took on the necessary role of the nation's conscience in the effort to save our planet from a looming climate catastrophe. With a candid and clear-eyed address, Vice President Gore provided a powerful bridge of hope to world leaders who were struggling to make real progress in setting a roadmap toward a treaty designed to stave off the most devastating impacts of global warming.

In his speech, Vice President Gore courageously confronted the "inconvenient truth" that right now, at this moment in history; the principal obstruction to progress in the global effort to confront the Earth's greatest existential threat is the United States of America. He urged the assembled delegates in Bali to overcome their anger and frustration at this obstacle, vowing that "over the next two years, the United States is going to be in a place it is not now." The Vice President also offered a solution, suggesting that rather than trying to move the Bush Administration, the climate summit simply should circumvent it by leaving "a large open space" in the document to be filled in when U.S. leadership is finally restored.

Inspired by the Vice President's address, the U.N. delegates finally and resolutely rebuffed the administration's effort to block consensus on a "Bali Roadmap" by reaching a consensus that commits all nations to negotiate a new, scientifically valid deal to fighting

global warming by 2009. The resolve to face down the White House was best perhaps best articulated by the delegate from Papua New Guinea—who, addressing the U.S. delegation in the final diplomatic showdown, declared, "If you cannot lead, leave it to the rest of us. Please get out of the way."

Madam Speaker, our distinguished former congressional colleague, Al Gore, has provided our Nation and our global community with great leadership. At a time when our own Administration has let us down, Vice President Gore has reminded the world that, in his words, "political will is a renewable resource."

I commend the text of the Vice President's historic address to my colleagues. To date, this landmark in the global climate discussion has not been published in its entirety anywhere, but I am honored now to place a verbatim transcript of it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Al Gore's words should inspire all of us to work to fill in the "large open space" that our current administration has left in the place where U.S. leadership normally resides.

SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE, BALI, INDONESIA, DECEMBER 13, 2007

(By Al Gore)

I am not an official of the United States, and I am not bound by the diplomatic niceties. So, I am going to speak an inconvenient truth. My own country, the United States, is principally responsible for obstructing progress here in Bali. We all know that.

We all know that. But, my country is not the only one that can take steps to ensure that we move forward from Bali with progress, and with hope. Those of you who applauded when I spoke openly about the diplomatic truth here have a choice to make. You can do one of two things here. You can feel anger and frustration and direct it at the United States of America, or you can make a second choice. You can decide to move forward and do all of the difficult work that needs to be done and save a large open blank space in your document and put a footnote by it. And when you look at the footnote, write the description of the footnote. This document is incomplete, but we are going to move forward anyway on the hope—and I am going to describe for you why I think you can also have the realistic expectation—that that blank will be filled in.

This is the beginning of a process designed to culminate in Copenhagen two years from now. Over the next two years, the United States is going to be somewhere it is not now. You must anticipate that. Targets must be a part of the treaty that is adopted in Copenhagen. And the treaty, by the way, should not only be adopted in 2009: I urge you in this mandate to move the target for full implementation of this treaty to a point two years sooner than presently contemplated. Let's have it take effect fully in 2010, and not 2012. We can't afford to wait another five years in order to replace the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol.

So we must leave here with a strong mandate. This is not the time for business as usual. Somehow we have to summon, and each of you must summon a sense of urgency here in Bali. These are not political problems, they are moral imperatives. But our capacity to strip away the disguise and see them for what they really are and then find the basis to act together to successfully address them is what is missing.

The greatest opportunity inherent in this climate crisis is not only to quickly deploy the new technologies that will facilitate sustainable development, to create the new jobs

and to lift standards of living. The greatest opportunity is that in rising to meet the climate crisis, we in our generation will find the moral authority and capacity for long term vision to get our act together in this world and take on these other crises, not political problems, and solve them. We are one people, on one planet. We have one future, one destiny. We must pursue it together, and we can.

The great Spanish poet from Sevilla Antonio Machado wrote, "Path walker, there is no path. You must make the path as you walk."

There is no path from Bali to Copenhagen unless you make it. It's impossible given the positions of the powerful countries, including my own, and the instructions from which they are not going to depart. But you can make a new path. You can make a path that goes around that blank spot. And you can go forward.

There are two paths you can choose. They lead to two different futures. Not too long from now, when our children assess what you did here in Bali, what we in our generation did here in this world. As they look backward, at 2007, they will ask one of two questions. I don't know which one they will ask, I know which one I prefer they ask, but trust me, they will ask one of these two questions.

They'll look back and either they will ask, "What were you thinking? Didn't you hear the IPCC four times unanimously warning the world to act? Didn't you see the glaciers melting? Didn't you see the North Polar ice cap disappearing? Didn't you see the deserts growing and the droughts deepening and the crops drying up? Didn't you see the sea level rising, didn't you see the floods, didn't you pay attention to what was going on? Didn't you care? What were you thinking?"

Or they will ask a second question, one that I much prefer them ask. I want them to look back on this time and ask, "How did you find the moral courage to successfully address a crisis that some many have said was impossible to address? How were you able to start the process that unleashed the moral imagination of humankind to see ourselves as a single global civilization?" And when they ask that question, I want you to tell them that you saw it as a privilege to be alive at a moment when a relatively small group of people could control the destiny of all generations to come. Instead of shaking our heads at the difficulty of this task and saying, "Woe is us, this is impossible, how can we do this?" We're so mad at the ones that are making it harder; we ought to feel a sense of joy that we have work that is worth doing, that is so important to the future of all humankind. We ought to feel a sense of exhilaration that we are the people alive at a moment in history when we can make all the difference. That's who you are. You have everything you need. We have everything we need, save perhaps political will, but political will is a renewable resource.

Thank you very much.

HONORING ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR. THROUGH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR SECURITY OFFICERS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an event honoring my pioneering predecessor, former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., of New York, and

acknowledged in the New York CARIB News December 10 story, "Honoring The Legacy of Adam Clayton Powell Jr." Local 32BJ—the largest private sector union in New York and the largest property service union in the country—has evoked the memory and legacy of Mr. Powell in its campaign to organize private security guards. The more than 60,000 New York security officers deserve a living wage that meets their needs and those of their families. This battle is the most recent offshoot of Mr. Powell's influence on social and economic justice. It is in his spirit that these hard-working Americans fight for the benefits due them, and I wholeheartedly join them in this campaign.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF ADAM CLAYTON POWELL, JR.

NEW YORK, NY.—In a major step forward for Local 32BJ's city-wide campaign to organize security officers, Reverend Dr. Calvin O. Butts welcomes Local 32BJ President Mike Fishman and Reverend Johnny Ray Youngblood to the Abyssinian Baptist Church for its annual commemoration of the life and work of Adam Clayton Powell, Jr.

This is the first time the union's security officer campaign is being brought to the attention of Abyssinian's members.

"Honoring the legacy of Adam Clayton Powell means continuing his fight for social and economic justice," said Mike Fishman, Local 32BJ President.

"It is unfair that these men and women risk their lives protecting million dollar buildings, but don't make enough to support their families."

More than 60,000 men and women in New York, most of whom are African-American, work as private security officers. Although they keep our city safe, many of them earn less than \$10/hr, receive no affordable health care and little, if any, state-of-the-art security training.

"As leaders in this city in the fight for social and economic justice the support of Reverend Butts and Reverend Youngblood is vital to the success of our campaign," Fishman added.

"Local 32BJ's campaign to raise wage and living standards is about more than 60,000 security officers—it is about New York itself," said Reverend Calvin Butts.

"The union's campaign is our community's campaign because it represents a unified call-to-action to pay men and women not only what they deserve, but what they need, to support their families—regardless of color."

"Labor and African-American leaders have a long history of working together—including organizing campaigns led by Dr. Martin Luther King on behalf of sanitation workers and by Adam Clayton Powell on behalf of pharmacists in Harlem."

"Nothing is more important in the union's security officer campaign than fighting for respect," said Rev. Youngblood. "Armed with respect for ourselves and from the community, and empowered with hard-earned respect from employers, we will win this fight for economic and social justice."

The recent event took on added significance because the union's campaign has been gaining momentum, and now represents more than 6,000 security officers in New York—double the number from just a few years ago.

With new campaigns visible at Jet Blue and Fordham University, which both use Summit, a low-wage security contractor, the campaign has picked up steam in recent months.

With more than 85,000 members, including 60,000 in New York, Local 32BJ is the largest

private sector union in New York and the largest property service union in the country.

MISSED VOTES

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2007

JANUARY 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam. Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 42: Passage of H. Res. 475. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

JANUARY 22, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 43: Table the appeal of the ruling of the Chair for H. Res. 476. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 44: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. No. 52. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 45: Motion to suspend the rules and Agree to H.R. 390. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 46: Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 29. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 87: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, and amendment to include language which encourages the Assistant Administrator to utilize Land Grant Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions and other minority serving institutions among other resources to undertake research for programs covered by the bill. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 88: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new paragraph to section 3, Biofuel Infrastructure and Additives Research and Development, to include issues with respect to where in the fuel supply chain additives optimally should be added to fuels. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 89: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new paragraph to section 3 which includes issues with respect to certification by a nationally recognized testing laboratory of components for fuel dispensing devices that specifically reference compatibility with alcohol blended and biofuels that contain greater than 15 percent alcohol. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 90: Agreeing to the Amendment of H.R. 547, an amendment to add a new section 7 entitled Additional Funding. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, due to events in my district, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 91: